

T-32

## Talbot Co. Historical Society Headquarters (Neall House)

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

***Last Updated: 04-05-2004***

Talbot County Historical Society  
27 South Washington Street  
Easton, Maryland 21601

T-32  
1804-1810

The Talbot County Historical Society is developing a complex of four 18th and 19th century structures as headquarters, museum, residence of the curator, and garden. The grandest of these structures, this Federal period house was constructed by James and Rachael Cox Neall between 1804-1810. The Neall family were Quakers and cabinet makers, and their house is carefully constructed and designed, but restrained in its details. The three story, brick structure shows a more conservative interpretation of Federal ideas than the Bullitt House (T-12), for example, a contemporary structure.

The Historical Society has furnished the major rooms and kitchen with 18th and 19th century furniture; the house is open to the public.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Neall House

AND/OR COMMON

Talbot County Historical Society

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

27 South Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Talbot

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☒ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Talbot County Historical Society

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

South Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21601

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Court House

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Court House Square

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Neall House is located on the northwest corner of South Washington Street and Cabinet Street in Easton.

The main house is a large, brick Federal townhouse, 3 1/2 stories high, three bays wide, and two rooms deep, with a pair of flush brick chimneys at the north end of the parapetted gable roof. Probably constructed in the first decade of the 19th century, the main house was enlarged circa 1820-30 by a two story brick "flounder" wing to the rear and a lower two story kitchen wing. The house evidently remained relatively intact until the late 1950's, when a restoration was undertaken. At that time, the flounder roof of the rear wing was raised to a more useful pitched gable. The installation of modern mechanical systems resulted in minor changes to the interior of the house.

The principal entrance is in the south bay of the east facade, facing South Washington Street. The six-panel door is set off by a beveled marble door sill, a splayed stone lintel with raised

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

keystone and reeded surfaces, a five-light transom, and paneled soffits and jambs. The door and the paneled frame date to the 1958 restoration. There are two 12/12 windows to the right of the door on the first floor, three 9/6 windows on the second and third floor, and two 6/6 pitched roof dormers on the roof. A pair of three-light cellar windows fitted with diamond-section iron bars pierce the foundation directly below the two first floor openings.

The windows are set in heavy, pegged wood frames with wood sills and splayed stone lintels with raised keystones and reeded surfaces. Original molded backband trim survives on most of the windows. The cellar windows are set in openings with segmental brick lintels. The first floor windows are fitted with restored, solid paneled exterior shutters hung on strap hinges and secured with rat-tail shutter dogs. The second and third floor windows are fitted with louvered wood shutters typical of the Victorian period. Some rat-tail shutter dogs survive on the second and third story openings as well. The dormer windows are quite plain and probably date to the early 20th century.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

The brickwork on the front facade is laid in Flemish bond above a two-course foundation. The brickwork is of exceptional quality with slightly raised mortar joints. This jointing technique gained considerable favor on the finer houses constructed in Annapolis in the latter half of the 18th century, but is only rarely found on the Eastern Shore. The cornice consists of four molded courses of corbeled brick, terminated at each end by the plain corbeled foot of the parapetted gable.

On the south gable wall, there are two 12/12 windows on the first floor, two 9/6 windows on the second and third floor, and two small bricked-up window openings in the upper gable. The paired openings on the three principal floors are offset to the east (toward the street) to allow for the position of the interior stair, while the upper gable windows and two three-light cellar windows are centered on the wall. The two first floor openings are not original, however, and it is possible that one or more of the second and third story windows are also cut in. The jambs of the first floor openings are clearly cut in, and an analysis of the paint suggests the windows were added circa

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

1820-30. The rear or west window clearly replaces an original opening almost immediately to the west of the present location.

The windows are set in heavy, pegged wood frames, several of which have been rebuilt, and are fitted with exterior shutters. The lintels are not expressed on this wall. The brickwork is laid in three-course bond on the first floor and five-course bond above. The brick is a common grade and the joint work lacks the attention to detail evident on the principal facade. One early S-shaped reinforcing plate can be observed in the upper gable; several star-shaped plates were added in the 1950's when reinforcing rods were passed through the house from gable to gable at the third story floor and ceiling levels.

The two story rear addition covers the two north bays of the rear facade. There is an original rear entrance door in the south bay on the first floor of the main house, opening onto a 20th century brick porch. This door is set in a plain opening with a brick jack arch lintel but without a transom or paneled soffit and jambs. There is a bricked up window opening on the second floor and a pair of 6/6 windows on the

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

third floor. The northerly window was changed to a 6/3 when the roof of the rear addition was enlarged in the late 1950's.

The brickwork on the rear facade is laid in random common bond with a plain four-course corbeled cornice. A bulkhead cellar entrance below the rear door appears to be original, with reworked jambs.

On the north gable wall, the fenestration is not symmetrical. There is a large 12/12 window to the left of the rear or westerly chimney and a smaller 9/6 window to the right on the first floor. A 9/6 window to the left of the rear chimney is the only opening on the second floor. On the third floor, there is one 6/6 window to the left of each chimney and a small 20th century casement window near the center. There are no openings in the upper gable. The jambs of both first floor openings have been reworked, and it would appear that the easterly 12/12 window is not original. A small cellar opening with diamond-section wood bars to the left of the rear chimney is of uncertain vintage.

The rear wing is composed of two parts, both constructed at the same time, probably circa 1820-30. The eastern part of the wing, adjoining the main house,

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.5 DESCRIPTION

is two stories high on a high foundation. The western section is also two stories high but at ground level, one-half story lower than the eastern section. There is one room on each floor of each section. The east part of the wing originally had a "flounder" or shed roof, sloping from south down to the north. This was raised in the late 1950's to a pitched gable roof to provide more space on the second floor. Evidence in the brickwork of the west part of the wing suggests possible changes in the roof of that section as well.

There are numerous seams in the brickwork of the north wall of the wing, indicating a number of unexplained alterations. At present, there is one 6/6 window in the east bay on each floor, and two 6/6 windows on the second floor of the western section. Only the east window on the first floor appears to be an early opening, the others have all been reworked or added. The brickwork is laid in random common bond with restored two-course corbeled cornices. The upper portion of the brickwork on the east section is clearly 20th century, added when the roof was changed.

The rear or west gable wall of the wing is laid in five-course bond with a single 6/6 window centered

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.6 DESCRIPTION

on the first floor and a modern, arched semi-circular ventilator in the upper gable. The upper gable has clearly been rebuilt and numerous repairs have been made over the years.

On the south wall of the wing, there is a paneled door with a three-light transom in the center of the east section on the first floor and two 6/6 windows on the second floor. There are seams in the five-course bond brickwork on either side of the door, but no clear evidence of their significance. At the west end of this facade, there is a door at ground level in the left bay and a 6/6 window to the right. Two 6/6 windows are placed directly above the first floor openings. The corbeled cornice on this facade has also been reworked or added. A two story porch was demolished in 1958 and replaced with an open brick porch in the alcove between the rear entrance of the main house and the east end of the wing.

The interior plan of the main house is a variation of the standard Federal side hall plan. On the first floor, the front door opens into a front entrance hall that runs along the east end of the south gable. A pilastered arch at the west end of the entrance hall

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.7 DESCRIPTION

opens into a larger rear stair hall. A six-panel door in the north wall of the entrance hall opens into a large, formal parlor facing the street. A wide doorway in the rear or west wall of the front parlor opens into a somewhat smaller formal room that probably originally served as the dining room. A door in the rear wall of this room leads down one step into the rear addition.

The front hall is relatively narrow, lighted by the transom over the door and a large window in the south gable wall. This is not an original window, but was probably inserted in the 1820's. The archway at the rear of the front hall has pilasters with molded caps and herring bone reeding on the face and jambs. A full arch with molded architrave springs from the top of the two pilasters.

The rear hall is wider than the front hall, with the stair rising against the north wall to a landing against the rear or west wall. It is an open-string stair with delicately turned newels, a simple molded rail and square ballusters. The carriage piece is molded, with a typical Federal broken field fascia. The area below the carriage is now plastered, but evidently was originally paneled. A four-panel door opens into a closet below the stairs. The flooring in this closet

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.8 DESCRIPTION

appears to be added, suggesting a possible interior cellar stair. From this closet it is possible to determine that the stair is constructed with wrought nails. This is the only readily accessible part of the house where wrought nails can be observed. A modern heating duct has been added in the northeast corner of this room.

The front room is a relatively large and elegant room, with a fireplace centered on the north gable wall. This mantel is evidently original, but was embellished in 1959 by the addition of applied reeding below the shelf and on the pilasters, copying the original reeding found on the pilastered hallway arch. A large doorway opening into the rear parlor is not original, but was probably added in the 1820's, at the same time the windows in the hall were inserted.

In the rear parlor or dining room, the fireplace is offset to the left of center on the north gable wall. There is a 9/6 window to the left of the fireplace with a simple one-door cupboard below the sill. To the right a large 12/12 window was added at a later date. The mantel is a large board surround with pilasters flanking the opening and a complex molded shelf. Reeded decoration has been added to the pilasters and below the shelf. The door in the rear wall,

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.9 DESCRIPTION

leading to the addition, is an original opening and frame, suggesting that the present wing may have replaced an earlier frame wing. Modern heating ducts have been added along the north wall and in the southwest corner of this room.

All of the first floor rooms are trimmed with molded baseboard and two piece chairrails of Federal design. Some of the chairrail was missing when the house was restored, and was replaced with matched reproduction woodwork. The door and window architraves consist of a broken-field beaded fascia with cyma recta/astragal backbands. The architrave of the arch in the hall has a cove/astragal backband. The inserted hall windows and the later door between the two parlors have broken field fascias with a steep ogee/astragal backband typical of the late Federal period, circa 1820-1830. The window reveals are paneled but are not splayed.

The east room on the first floor of the wing is one step lower than the main house. There is a fireplace on the center of the west wall, flanked on the left by a door opening onto a stair to the second floor of the west part of the wing, and on the right by a door opening onto a set of steps leading down to the ground

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.10 DESCRIPTION

level kitchen. The mantel in this room is believed to be an early 19th century surround that was installed during the restoration.

The west room on the first floor is the kitchen. It is at ground level, six steps lower than the east room. A large kitchen fireplace on the east wall of the kitchen shares a common chimney stack with the fireplace of the east room. The floor of the kitchen is laid with brick pavers in a herring bone pattern.

The second floor of the main house has a relatively unusual plan, with a large formal room stretching across the entire front of the house. There is a stair hall to the southwest and a nearly square rear chamber to the northwest. This plan is generally associated with high-style Federal townhouses of the late 18th and early 19th century, such as the Captain Steele House on Thames Street in Baltimore (circa 1785). The large and elegant front room evidently reflects the Renaissance idea of a "piano nobile" on the second floor. In detail, this room is much like the first floor, with a fireplace centered on the north gable wall, paneled window reveals, and Federal architrave trim on all openings. A molded baseboard and two-piece chairrail encircle the room.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.11 DESCRIPTION

The stair continues up to the third story with no loss of elegance in detail. A modern heating duct has been added in the northeast corner of the stairhall, and at an undetermined date a window on the rear wall, lighting the stair, was bricked up.

The smaller rear or northwest chamber has a fireplace offset to the left of center on the north gable wall. Closets with paneled doors flanking the fireplace appear to be original. The mantel in this room is a simple board surround with an ogee/astragal backband, a plain frieze, and a small, delicately molded shelf. Ductwork has been added in the northeast and southwest corner of the room and permanent shelving has been installed across the east wall. A door in the rear wall opens into a plain, nearly square room at the east end of the later wing.

The west end of the wing on the second floor may originally have provided separate quarters over the kitchen, but presently serves for bathroom facilities and additional storage space.

The third floor of the main house consists of a stairhall, two large chambers and one small chamber. Original doors open from the stair hall into large

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.12 DESCRIPTION

chambers in the southeast and the northwest corners of the house. A later door opens onto an enclosed straight-run stair between the front and rear rooms. There is a smaller chamber in the northeast corner with doors connecting to the two larger chambers. The third floor has been converted to a separate apartment.

The attic is divided into two rooms, both of which are plastered and finished but are only used for storage.

The cellar is divided into two rooms by a brick foundation wall oriented on a north-south axis. The present bulkhead entrance, located at the south end of the west or rear facade, appears to be an original opening with reworked jambs. The chimney base on the north gable wall of this room has a relieving arch but no flue or fireplace. Remnants of plaster and evidence of early or original shelving in the northeast corner of the room suggest this room was used for food storage. Inserted flooring under the first floor stair suggest a possible original cellar stair has been removed.

The "inner" or east room has a large chimney base on the north gable wall that evidently included a large cooking fireplace which has been adapted for the

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.13 DESCRIPTION

modern fireplace. The hewn and whip-sawn ceiling joists and the flooring above are whitewashed in both rooms. The door connecting the two rooms has been reduced in width in recent years.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 100-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1804-1810

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, the Neall House is significant as an example of a high-style Federal townhouse of exemplary detail. Constructed circa 1804-1810, it is one of the largest and finest townhouses of its period on the Eastern Shore and compares favorably with similar fine dwellings in Baltimore and Philadelphia. The exterior of the building is notable for the fine Flemish bond with unusual raised jointing, the reeded stone lintels, and the molded brick cornice of the front facade, as well as the brick parapets that terminate the gable eaves. Similar masonry work and decorative details can be observed on a number of other contemporary buildings in Easton, clearly suggesting a possible connection in design and craftsmanship.

The most notable feature of the interior is the plan. The first floor plan is a relatively unusual and extremely practical variation of the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

side hall, double parlor plan, featuring a narrow front entrance hall at the east end of the south gable wall that opens into a larger stair hall to the rear. This minimizes lost space in the hall, and allows a larger formal parlor in the front, adjoining the entrance hall. On the second floor, the front room extends the full width of the house, with a stair hall and a second, nearly square chamber to the rear. This plan variation creates an elegant front room that calls to mind the "piano nobile" of the Renaissance, a plan particularly well suited to the Federal townhouse but only rarely found in Tidewater Maryland. The decorative woodwork of the interior is typical of the Federal period in this region. Particular features of note include the pilastered arch with herring bone reeding between the front hall and the stair hall, and the handsome open string stair.

The two story rear addition is believed to date to the 1820's and may replace an original frame wing. The east end of the present wing originally had a "flounder" or shed roof similar to the early brick wing on the Old Inn in nearby St. Michaels. This form of roof is relatively common in larger towns

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

and cities and was particularly popular in Philadelphia,  
but is relatively unusual on the Eastern Shore.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Ludlow, Cynthia B. Historic Easton, Its History and Architecture Easton, 1979.

Welsh, Frank. Preliminary Report, Paint Analysis of Neall House 1980.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historical Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

11/5/80

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XVIII; Recorded August, 1980.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

T-32

2100324303

Town of Easton

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Talbot County Historical Society Headquarters

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

27 South Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

FIRST

STATE

Maryland 21601

COUNTY

Talbot

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☒ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Talbot County Historical Society

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

c/o Mr. Karl deRocheffort-Reynolds, Curator

27 South Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21601

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Court House

Liber #: 335

Folio #: 513

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Town of Easton Survey by Paul Brinkman

DATE

August 29, 1967

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

# 7 DESCRIPTION

T-32

## CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Talbot County Historical Society has its headquarters in a three-and-a-half story Federal house on South Washington Street. Standing on the northwest corner of Glenwood (formerly Cabinet) Street, the building faces east and is constructed of brick. At the rear of the main house is a two story ell which is now four bays in length although it was originally only two bays long.

The house has the gable roof with dormers always used in Federal period structures in Easton. In this case the roof slopes each have two gable dormers with six over six sashes and diagonal weatherboarding on the cheeks. The dormer roofs have widely overhanging eaves and no moldings or other ornaments.

Embellishing the eaves of the house is a molded brick cornice. This is an unusual treatment in this town, only seen at the Hughlett-Henry-Bond House, 11 South Street (T-455) and St. Aubins Keep (T-67), a large brick barn at 105 Willis. The main facade of the structure is laid in Flemish bond; others are liverpool bond. Other outstanding masonry details are the bold double keystone arches of sandstone decorated with shallow gauge work reedings and flutings. Windows have beaded frames surrounded with an ogee backbond molding. Sills are unmolded and project slightly from the wall surface. Nine over six sashes are used in each second and third window, twelve over twelve on the first. Window blinds are louvered on the upper floors and paneled with three raised and beveled panels on the ground floor. Basement windows, now only slightly above ground have shallow segmental arches of stretchers. There are two windows per floor on the south elevation of the main house; they are detailed similarly to those on the front facade.

There are two entrances in the south bay, one in the front and one in the rear of the main house. The interior stair is also in this bay. The front entrance has a double keystone arch and a single stone step. There is a five pane transom light and the door has six raised and beveled panels. There is an enclosed brick chimney with corbelled cap in the north wall. Brick curtains, also seen in many other Federal period buildings here, extend the side wall up to the roof (which is now covered with black asphalt shingles). *above*

The rear ell, as mentioned, extends from two to four bays long. The walls are brick - one to five English bond. The wing has a gable roof and an entrance in the middle, south facade of the earlier portion. A porch behind the main house block is modern.

This is a side hall plan house which is two rooms deep. The stair hall at the rear is separated from the entrance hall with a wooden arch with diagonal reeding. The stair has turned newel and intermediates; there are three balusters per step.

The mantle in the front parlour is a replacement which is based on the old one in the rear parlour. Both have rectangular openings with reeded pilasters and diagonally reeded capitols. These two rooms are connected by a wide doorway. Their windows are treated with recessed, panel/jambs.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(CONT.)

27 South Washington Street  
Easton, Maryland 21601

T-32

Talbot County Historical Society Headquarters

Behind the formal rooms and down several steps in the ell is the kitchen, now equipped with eighteenth century furnishings, many from Talbot County homes.

Upstairs rooms, now adapted to modern uses, also have paneled jambs. The mantles, typical of those of the early nineteenth century, are rather plain with rectangular openings.

The house is the major structure in the Society's complex of historical structures. They are set in a garden which has been designed, planted, and maintained by the Talbot County Garden Club.

The building was restored in 1962 after it was purchased by the Historical Society. It is used as a museum and offices with a small apartment on the third floor.

RAEFERASE EDND  
EIGHTH WORTH 18.00  
1916 COTTON 1.00

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

T-32

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1804-1810

BUILDER/ARCHITECT James & Rachael Cox Neall

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house is significant for its architecture. Its history has been thoroughly researched by Phoebe Jacobson. The building was constructed by a cabinet maker James Neall and his wife Rachell Cox after 1804, but before 1810. In 1810 the property had a two story frame shop with a back addition, a brick kitchen, a milk house - a necessary, and a frame dwelling house. Today only the brick house and the frame dwelling house now at 20 West Street (T-33) remain. James Neall was a Quaker and brother of Joseph Neall, also a Quaker and the builder of the frame dwelling on James and Rachell's property. The building is carefully crafted and designed, but restrained in its details. It represents a more conservative interpretation of Federal architecture, than, for example, the Bullitt House (T-12) a contemporary structure. This building is much larger, but comparable to The Poney House (T-400) at 113 South Hanson Street.

The house was purchased by the Talbot County Historical Society on November 30, 1956, and occupied by that organization since 1962. It is preserved as a museum and open to the public.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Deeds and Land Records, Talbot County Court House.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY NA**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**NA**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

None

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Historic Easton, Incorporated

DATE

January 25, 1967

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 1171TELEPHONE Mr. Paul Parsons,  
301-822-2706 President

CITY OR TOWN

Easton


STATE

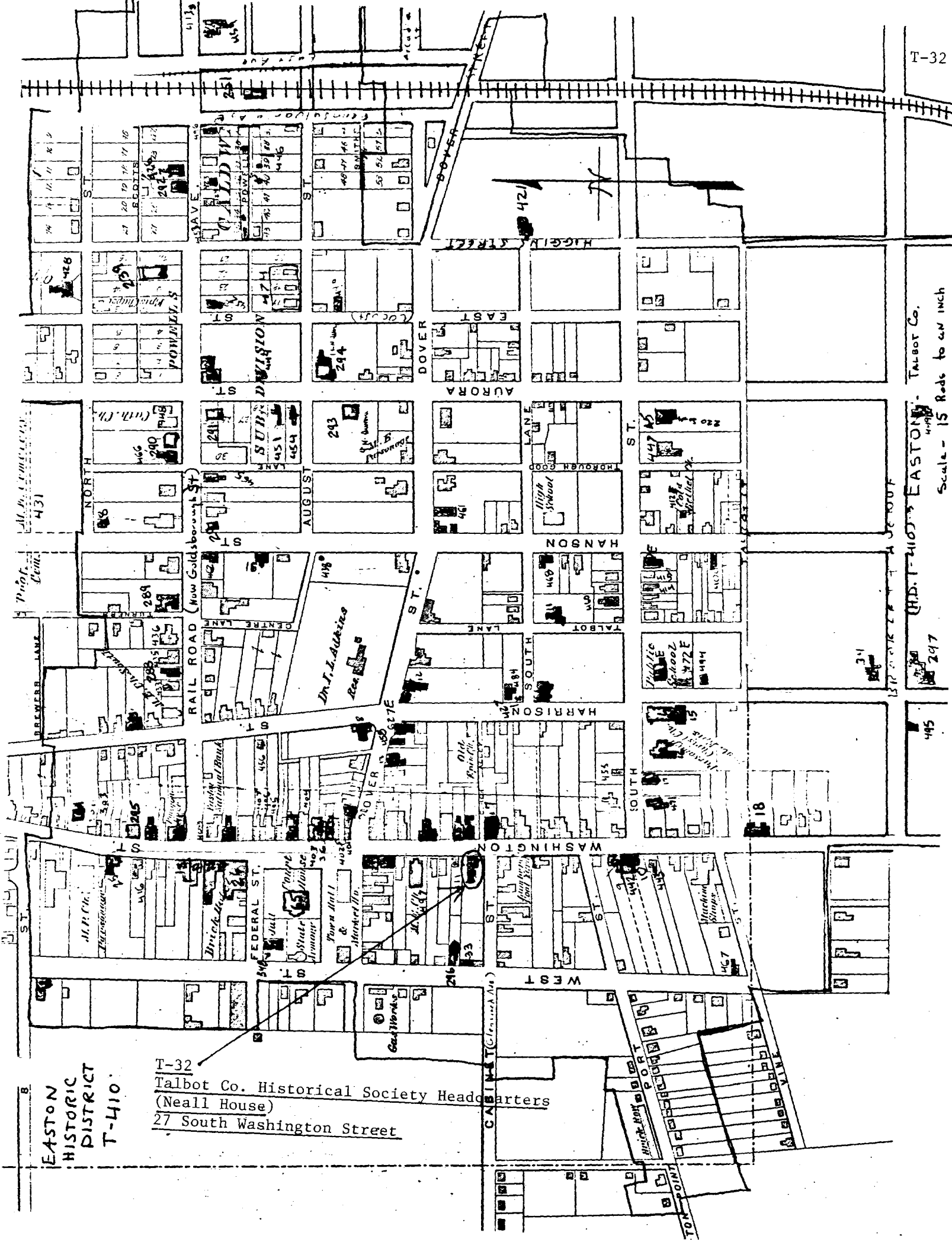
Maryland 21601

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

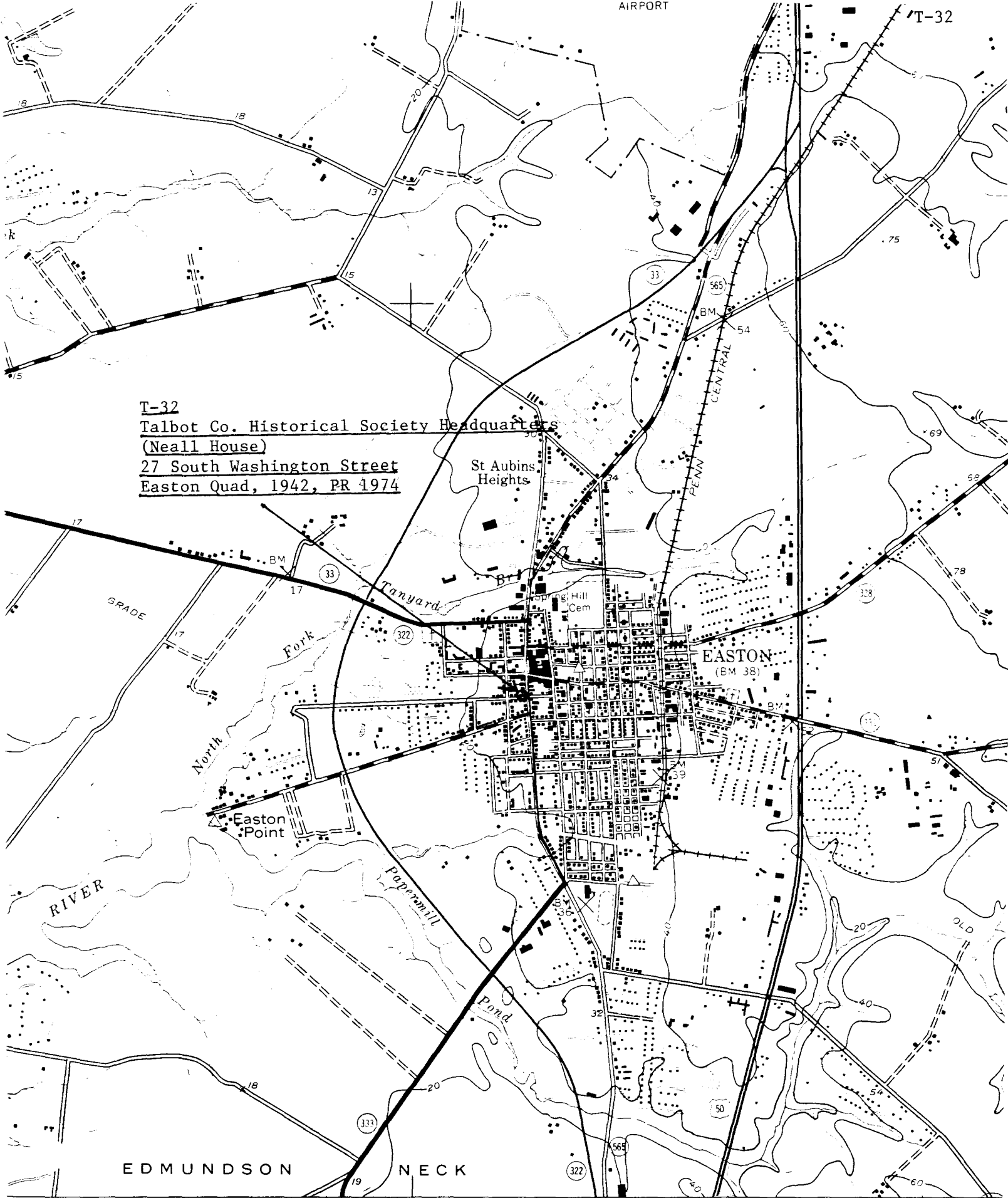
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

<p>1. STATE <b>Maryland</b> T-32</p> <p>COUNTY <b>Talbot</b></p> <p>TOWN <b>Easton</b> VICINITY</p> <p>STREET NO. <b>S. Washington St.</b></p> <p>ORIGINAL OWNER</p> <p>ORIGINAL USE <b>Dwelling</b></p> <p>PRESENT OWNER <b>Talbot County Hist.Soc.</b></p> <p>PRESENT USE <b>Museum</b></p> <p>WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>Flemish &amp; common bond</b></p> <p>NO. OF STORIES <b>3½ w/2 2½ additions</b></p>		<p style="text-align: center;">HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY</p> <p>2. NAME</p> <p>DATE OR PERIOD <b>c. 1800</b></p> <p>STYLE <b>Federal</b></p> <p>ARCHITECT</p> <p>BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>	
<p>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <span style="float: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC <b>yes</b></span></p> <p>This is a rather restrained and simple example of a Federal town house. It is 3 bays wide and 4 bays deep with an A-roof which slopes gently from front to back. The door occupies the left front bay and has a flat stuccoed lintel with a double keystone. The 2 front basement windows have segmented arched tops. The first floor windows are 12/12, those on the second and third floors are 9/6. All of the windows have flat wooden sills and flat stuccoed arches with double keystones. The door has a simple overlight. There are 2 peaked 6/6 dormers on the front roof which appear to be later additions. There is a large enclosed chimney which rises from the right end wall of the house. It is very high and has a molded brick cap. The side walls rise higher than the roof line making a roof curtain. The 2 2½ storey additions at the rear are of common bond brick and appear to be later in construction than the rest of the house.</p> <p>The interior of the Historical Society has well panelled door frames and fireplaces, all in Federal design. It has been well restored and refurbished.</p>			
<p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE <span style="float: right;">Exterior <b>excellent</b></span></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Endangered      Interior      Exterior</p>			
<p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> 		<p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p>	
<p>8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)</p> <p>INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p>		<p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER</p> <p><b>Paul A. Brinkman</b></p> <p>DATE OF RECORD <b>28/9/1967</b></p>	



T-32  
Talbot Co. Historical Society Headquarters  
(Neall House)  
27 South Washington Street

EASTON  
HISTORIC  
DISTRICT  
T-410



vey

metric methods



13 x 1.80 66 1/2



TALBOT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

27 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET

EASTON, MD.

July 1976

MFRITZ

EAST ELEVATION

F. R. VERNON - WILLIAMS, JR.  
510 DIAMOND STREET  
EASTON, MARYLAND 21601

T-32

6.15

Ch 6  
Plus .17

6.15

66%



T-32

48%

T-32

Talbot County Historical Society Headquarters  
(Neill House)  
27 S. Washington Street, Easton  
East Facade